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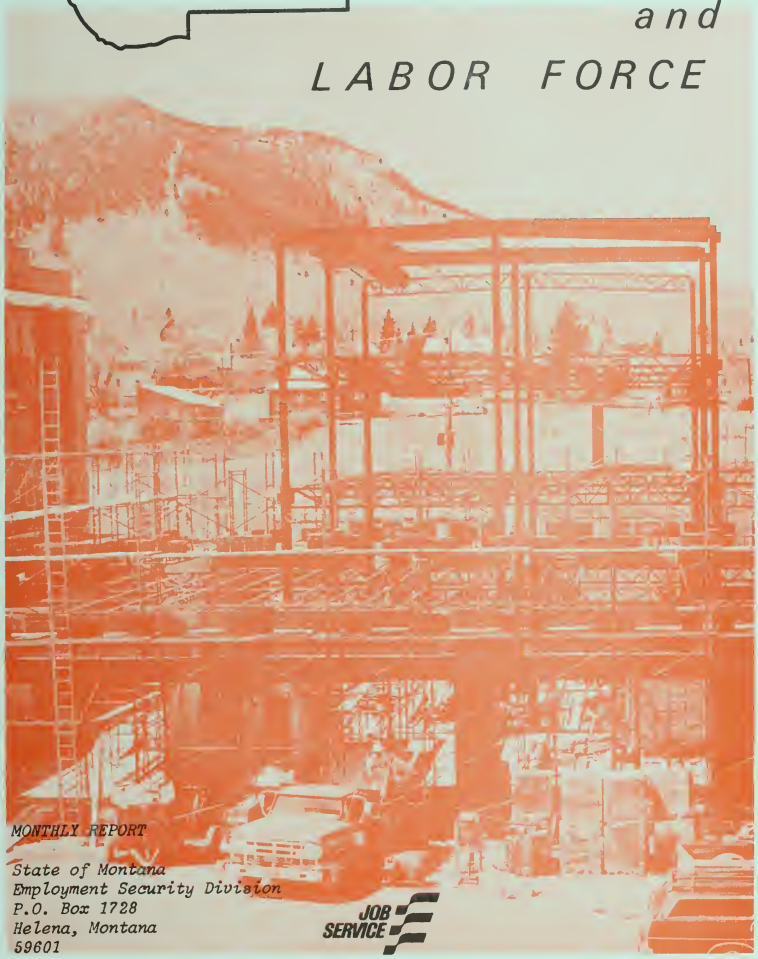
MONTANA EMPLOYMENT and LABOR FORCE



MONTHLY REPORT

State of Montana
Employment Security Division
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana
59601

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume 7 Number 4

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

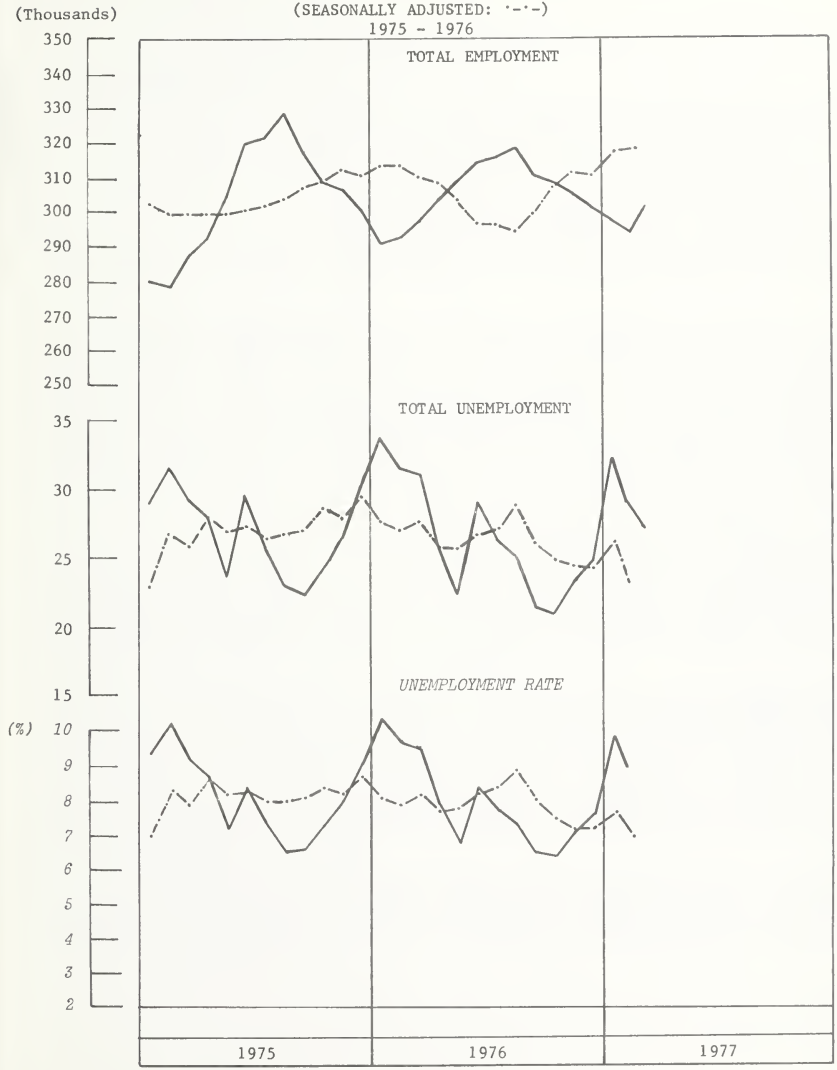
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ——)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ·-·-)
1975 - 1976



HIGHLIGHTS: MARCH 1977

Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 7.0% for March. Unemployment did drop by 500 persons, but employment slid to 314.3 thousand, a decrease of 1.3%, which left the unemployment rate unchanged from February. Forecast data for April indicate that the job market is again expanding and the unemployment rate should reflect this improvement in the labor force. Unemployment Insurance claims from the local job service office already support this position - the claims load has decreased 9.6% since March.

A 14.2% decrease in claims filed by females led this 9.6% decrease in claims throughout the state local offices. Female claimants attached to banking accounted for the largest percentage change, down 31.9%; followed by social services, down 28.6%, and wholesale trade down 26.6%. Among males those with an occupational attachment in construction, banking, and recreation seemed to be the most successful in attaining employment as witnessed by sharp declines in claims load from these areas. A decrease in claim filers was noted in virtually all occupational categories, with the exception of lumber and wood products which rose 16.2% during the period. The completion of spring break-up should allow loggers to return to the woods shortly and relieve unemployment in this industry.

During March, Montana's economy received an added stimulus from construction activity. Although highway and heavy construction have not resumed full-scale operations, building construction activity was at an all-time high for the month of March. Throughout the state building inspectors and planning directors reported record levels of building permit applications. Even in small towns where historically no notable building activity occurs until spring, there has been reports of increased residential building activity. The latent demand for housing coupled with the availability of mortgage money is now fueling an unprecedented growth in building construction.

While the construction industry is heating up Montana's economy, other factors are creating skepticism among many local economists. State energy officials are now discussing the possibility of mandatory curtailments of energy usage, a strong likelihood by this fall if the hydroelectric situation does not improve. In the face of such an occurance, it is difficult to project more than minimal growth in the industrial sector. The agricultural sector also is not without its problems. Unseasonally warm temperatures and lack of precipitation in recent weeks have further reduced soil moisture content in prime agricultural areas. And even if the weather does improve, farmers must still contend with depressed farm prices.

On the whole, Montana's economy appears to have regained the stability of the early seventies. In the absence of substantial changes in the present economic scenario, some form of limited economic growth can be expected. However, the degree of growth is dependent on various factors including the disposition of the energy question.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, the civilian labor force totaled 33,600 individuals, 2.1% above March 1976. The number of employed persons jumped 600 from last month to 31,300. In terms of major industries in the Great Falls SMSA, agricultural employment rose 200, construction 100, and trade climbed 200 from February levels. At the same time, the jobless rolls dropped 200 from last month, bringing the total to 2300 individuals, or 6.9% of the civilian labor force.

GREAT FALLS

March Claims Characteristics by Job Service Office

	Percent of All Continued Claims	Percent Change from the Previous Month
Males	68%	-23%
Females	32%	- 4%

Last Industry or Occupation of the Unemployed

Males		Females	
Building Construction	19%	Health Services	16%
Highway Construction	15%		

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 678 new cars have been registered in Cascade County during the first four months of 1977. This compares with 815 car registrations during the same period a year ago. First quarter new business formations revealed a positive trend, as totals for 1977 hit 146, 139% higher than the first quarter of 1976. A total of 213 building permits were issued in the city of Great Falls for first quarter 1977. This compares with 194 permits in 1976.

This month the city commission awarded two construction firms contracts totaling $813,858 for installing water sewer and improvements in the new industrial park in Great Falls. Other projects underway include: a seven-story, 54-unit motor hotel, and a department store remodeling and expansion project.

With the exception of agriculture, the overall economy in the Great Falls area still appears headed toward a very active year. There are several large highway construction projects underway, residential building is expected to be near or over the previous record-high, and the retail and service industries are expected to expand. In fact, two new shopping malls are currently under consideration, as well as two new franchise motel complexes.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force reached 50,900 in March, 7.2% above March a year ago. The employed labor force totaled 47,900, a jump of 500 from February. Agricultural employment rose 200 to 1300. Government, contract construction, and service industries each experienced employment increases, while manufacturing was the sole job loser, with a decline of 100.

In March, 400 individuals left the jobless rolls, bringing the number of unemployed persons to 3000. The March jobless rate fell to 5.9%, compared with 6.6% in February and 7.2% in March one year ago.

BILLINGS

March Claims Characteristics by Job Service Office

	Percent of All Continued Claims	Percent Change from the Previous Month
Males	81%	-8%
Females	19%	-13%

Last Industry or Occupation of the Unemployed

Males		Females	
Construction, Special Trade	14%	Clerical Sales Occupations	47%
Construction, Heavy & Highway	23%	Service Occupations	30%

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In the first quarter of 1977, 188 new businesses were formed in Yellowstone County. This represents a 138% increase from the same period a year ago. General spending activity also continues to portray positive trends, as cumulative bank debits through February rose 28% from 1976 levels. However, building permits highlight the economic news in Billings. In February, total permits jumped 100 from January to 150 permits. March building permits took an even greater jump to 279, bringing the quarterly total to 479, an increase of 32% from the first quarter of 1976. New car registrations were the sole negative indicator, as the cumulative total through April was 20% off from 1976 levels.

Business activity continues at a brisk pace in the Billings community. In the downtown district work continues on a new parking garage. The parking center is expected to be completed by this fall and will have four parking levels with spaces for 460 vehicles, as well as 14,000 sq. ft. of retail area on the ground level. Also, work has begun on climate controlled sky-bridge walkway between two of the downtown area's biggest department stores. Several other stores in the area are either undergoing or planning addition or remodeling projects. A local architect is planning a 19-story multi-use brick skyscraper on the edge of downtown Billings. Several large motel chains are studying the feasibility of renting part of the building. At this time there are no concrete commitments on leasing space in the proposed building. Another motel chain is studying the feasibility of establishing its third Billings-based operation. The proposed structure would include five stories and 160 rooms, probably in the central business district. An area bank is celebrating the grand

BILLINGS SMSA (Cont.)

opening of its remodeling-expansion project. After initiating construction a year ago, 2200 sq.ft. of space has been added to the existing structure. Another area lending institution will begin construction in May on a new $2.6 million structure, with all of the above projects in or near the Billings downtown area.

On the Westside, a major department store has tentatively agreed to move into a proposed addition on the south wing of the city's largest mall. Last month we reported on the opening of a new 44,500 sq. ft. grocery-drug store. Behind this $1,029,000 building, developers have purchased 16 lots with the intention of constructing a new mini mall. The mall will contain a strip of one and two story specialty retail stores. Various other projects are either proposed or underway. As can be seen, Billings remains the growth center of Montana. Business expansion has been good in both non-manufacturing and manufacturing. At the same time, the labor force has been expanding at about a six to seven percent rate to meet the labor demands of this economic growth.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, the civilian labor force totaled 32,361 individuals in the six-county Anaconda-Butte labor area. The number of employed persons rose 200 to 29,100, despite employment declines in Silver Bow and Deer Lodge counties. Conversely, unemployment dropped 200, leaving 3200 on the jobless rolls in the area. The March unemployment rate averaged 10% in the six-county area. Granite County experienced the highest unemployment rate with 13.8% while Beaverhead County witnessed the lowest with 5.2%.

In March, the Anaconda job service office experienced a 10% drop in claims filed by males and 23% drop in females, while in the Butte office the declines were 14% and 15% for males and females respectively.

The largest percentage of male claimants reported from jobs in highway and building construction and metal minings. Whereas females most generally were last employed in some facet of the service industry, especially the health field.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 100 new businesses were created in the first quarter of 1977 within the six counties of the Anaconda-Butte labor area. Silver Bow County contributed 62 to the total of 100 new firms, which is more than the total for all six counties during the first three months of 1976.

Spending levels appeared better than 1976 levels, as the cities of Anaconda and Butte showed gains in banking debits for the first two months of 1977. The actual percentage gains were 9% and 22% for Anaconda and Butte, respectively.

On the negative side, cumulative new car registrations through April totaled 414, off 30% from the same period one year ago. However, the statewide totals also showed a 20% decline in registrations.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA (Cont.)

With an unemployment rate just under 10%, the labor market is far from excellent in the Anaconda-Butte labor area. The area job market has been plagued by layoffs and closures in the mining and manufacturing sectors, and in particular, metal mining, metal smelting operations, and lumber manufacturing. However, there are several prospects that could have a very positive effect on these areas during 1977. Firstly, new housing starts are off to a record pace in Montana, which compares nationally. This is the best news the lumber industry has heard since early 1973. Montana's mills have been picking up production, which is keeping loggers busy supplying timber. Another possible bright spot lies in the fact that U.S. copper prices have risen to 74¢ per lb. and nearly 14% since the beginning of this year. Since copper prices have stagnated for several years, this is good news for Montana's copper industry. However, some observers believe that the price hikes have been greatly influenced by speculative stockpiling with an anticipated labor dispute this summer. This possibility notwithstanding, the outlook appears more optimistic than the past two years.

The construction sector in Butte should be active in 1977. By summer's end about 100 individuals could be working on the new magnetohydrodynamics plant. The $20 million project is expected to employ about 200 workers by the construction peak in 1978. Also, sometime this summer a $2.5 million physical education center is expected to be under construction at the college in Butte.

The Anaconda office reported that the job outlook is presently not strong, due to layoffs in the logging industry. The layoffs were caused by the normal "spring breakup" in the woods. However, workers should be returning sometime in May. Also, employees at the state mental hospital in Warm Springs are seeking employment in anticipation of the June layoff. As was stated in an earlier issue the upcoming layoff was initiated because of state budget cuts. The state prison in Deer Lodge completed most of the hiring of correctional officers, although some openings still exist for professional and service occupations.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The employed work force climbed 500 from February to 21,400 in March in the Bozeman labor area. Nearly 16,200 of the individuals were employed in Gallatin county. The number of jobless fell 200 to 1800, with all three counties recording declines in the number of unemployed.

The heavy and highway construction industry accounted for 14% of the male claim filers in the Bozeman job service office and 27% of those in the Livingston office. In the Livingston office, 16% of the males were lumber and wood industry workers. In both offices, about 40% of the female claimants were last employed in clerical or sales occupations.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Following statewide trends, new business formations in the Bozeman labor area were significantly above 1976 levels, with 124 new firms added to the area in the first quarter of 1977.

Other significant indicators include, a 30% drop in new car registrations in Gallatin County and a 19% increase in bank debits in the city of Livingston.

BOZEMAN LMA (Cont.)

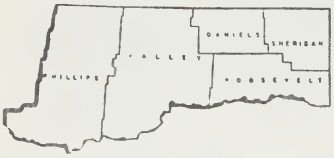
The Bozeman job service reported that main street activity has been slow during the past month. A new restaurant will soon open in the city and it will be hiring about 25 people. Also, an area cement-concrete firm resumed seasonal operations recalling 12 workers. At a ski-recreational resort near Bozeman, 200 workers were laid off with the closing of the ski area for the summer season. The resort will reopen on June 5 for the summer tourist season. During the summer season, employment is not expected to exceed 80, of which nearly all will be hotel-restaurant occupations. The resort will close again in September and remain closed until about Thanksgiving.

In the agricultural sector, it has been reported that calving is about 75% complete, with lambing just underway. Crop planting is near complete and area farmers and ranchers seem more optimistic, because of late spring snow. Several openings exist for farm couples at $450-$550 monthly salary plus.

In Livingston, one local sawmill added another work shift in April, as orders are picking up. There is no major activity on the road construction job between Livingston and Bozeman.

GLASGOW LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



In March, the civilian labor pool swelled to 15,800 individuals in the five-county Glasgow labor area. The number of jobholders reached 14,700, an increase of 700 from the previous month, with all five counties reflecting employment gains. The total number of unemployed fell 200 from last month to 1,100. Nearly 82% or 900 unemployed workers reported from Valley and Roosevelt counties. The March unemployment rate hit 7.2% compared to 8.8% in February.

The March claims load fell 15% and 45% for male and female claimants, respectively, in the Glasgow job office. Males accounted for 78% of all filed claims, of which about one-fourth were last employed in miscellaneous business service fields. On the otherhand, over 40% of all females were clerical or sales workers.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic data for first quarter 1977 was generally negative for the five counties in the Glasgow labor market area. New car registrations were down 27% for the four months of 1977 from year ago levels. New business formations totaled 28, compared with 37 in the first quarter of 1976, and bank debits declined 7% in the first two months of 1977 from 1976 levels. Although, Valley County witnessed positive movements in both new car registrations and new businesses, a significant decline among the other four counties offset these gains.

In Glasgow, work on a new hospital stands alone as the major building project. The construction work is now just over one-half finished. Several business concerns are still negotiating for possible use of facilities at the air base in Glasgow. One manufacturing firm already using part of the base announced that all employees will be terminated by April's end, due to inability to obtain a more permanent lease prior to bidding for new contracts. The full impact of such a move is not known, although the manufacturer has been an important employer to the area for several years.

Seasonal workers in agricultural, construction and other outdoor related industries are being recalled by area firms. In Wolf Point, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will soon be

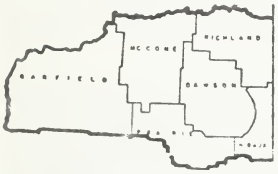
recalling their construction crews, as will an area ready-mix concrete firm.

The town of Poplar will be active this spring in the construction sector. Work is scheduled to begin on the sewage treatment plant and a 48-unit tribal housing project by the end of April.

The overall economic climate continues to be tempered by the uncertain agricultural situation, as farm prices remain at depressed levels. There is also major concern for soil moisture levels which were far below normal during April.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



The number of job holders totaled 12,200 individuals in March. The largest percentage of workers were concentrated in Dawson, and Richland counties, which combined for 8,700 workers or 71% of the total employment. The number of unemployed persons fell 100 from February to 700. The unemployment ratio was 5.3%, down from the 6.7% recorded for February.

The Glendive and Sidney job service offices showed a decline in the number of unemployment claims from February to March. The largest percentage of males originated from building and highway construction, and the oil and gas industry. Whereas, 40% of the females in the Glendive office and 75% of those in the Sidney office were last employed in clerical or sales occupations.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Cumulative bank debits for January and February reached $50.7 million in the city of Glendive and $55.9 million in Sidney. In comparison with 1976, both areas showed gains, 3% and 4%, respectively. A total of 164 new cars were registered in the Glendive labor area during the first four months of 1977. New business formations reflected a positive trend, as a total of 31 were formed in the first quarter of 1977, up from the 21 recorded for the same period one year ago.

Highway construction is being resumed on several large construction projects between Miles City and Glendive. One firm working just west of Glendive now has a crew of 60 on the job and will eventually employ about 100 workers. One contractor working on the east side of Glendive still employs only a skeleton crew.

About 50% of the spring wheat, barley, and sugarbeets have been planted, but oat seeding is somewhat behind. The calving and lambing operations are also over one-half completed.

In Sidney, a new four-store shopping complex and a lumber yard are near completion.

The Glendive job service office reports that some openings exist for waiter-waitresses, cooks and dishwashers. Also, calls are coming in for summer ranch work for singles and couples.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

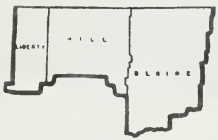
The civilian labor force totaled 11,200 individuals for the four counties in the Hardin-Red Lodge labor area for March. A total of 10,400 held jobs in March, 500 from the previous month. All four counties recorded employment gains of at least 100 individuals. At the same time, unemployment fell 100 to 800 individuals, or a 7.2% unemployment rate. Over one-half of the unemployed were from Big Horn County, followed by Carbon County with 200 jobless.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 24 new business firms entered the four-county labor area during the first quarter of 1977. This compares with 13 new firms during the first quarter of 1976. At 106, new car registrations for the first four months of 1976 dropped 26% from 1976 levels.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



In March, Havre's employment levels climbed 500 to 11,400. Hill County accounted for 7,800 or 68% of the area's total employment. The number of jobless fell 100 to 800 in March, bringing the unemployment rate to 6.5%, compared with 7.5% in February. Blaine County recorded the highest jobless rate at 7.3%, followed by Hill County with 6.6% and Liberty with a low 3.8% rate. Only the Miles City and Billings labor areas had lower unemployment rates in March.

March claims data revealed declines of 17% for males and 9% for females. Women filed about 31% of all claims in March, and 43% of the women were last employed in clerical or sales positions. The highway construciton and oil and gas exploration industries accounted for the largest percentage of male claimants.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In the city of Havre, bank debits maintain the positive trend of the past year. During January and February, bank debits increased 30% from the first two months of 1976 at a volume of over $268.7 million. New business formations for the first four months of 1976 increased 46% over year ago levels. On the negative side, new car registrations for the first four months of this year fell 29% from the same period one year ago.

The Havre job service office reports that during the past month most hiring activity has been in the retail and service industries. Outdoor related industries have been temporarily affected by snow falls during the last part of March. The major activities in the area's important agricultural industries have been calving and crop planting operations.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, the civilian labor pool stood at 23,800 individuals in the Helena tri-county labor area. Of these, 22,200 were employed in March, and 18,500 of which, were employed in Lewis and Clark County. In comparison with February, 300 additional workers found jobs in March. The number of jobless remained unchanged at 1,600, 6.8% of the civilian labor pool.

March unemployment statistics from the Helena employment service office revealed a drop in the number of claims filed by both men and women. However, the decline was much more significant for women, 29%. Lumber and wood industry workers represented about 15% of all male claim filers, while nearly half of the females were clerical and sales workers.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Helena labor market area was one of the two major areas recording gains in new car registrations. In the first four months of 1977, 375 registrations were issued in the three-county area, which represented a 4.2% increase over the same period a year ago. Other indicators include the following, all of which portray a positive outlook. Cumulative bank debits in Helena through February totaled $1.9 million, 37% ahead of 1976 levels.

A total of 90 new businesses entered the Helena labor market area in the first quarter of 1977. This compares with 34 new firms in the first three months of 1976. Seventy-nine or 88% of the new firms entered Lewis and Clark County. Building permits are up slightly in Helena, and this margin is expected to grow further before 1977 closes. In otherwords, economic conditions are very good in the area as a whole, since the economic state is highly influenced by the Helena area. Unemployment is fairly low, the labor market is growing, industry is expanding and other positive trends are happening in Helena. In the other two counties in the area, unemployment is about one and a half percent higher. Also, low agricultural prices are having a much more pronounced negative effect, because of the rural nature of their economies.

The labor market will receive a jolt this summer, as the Warm Spring and Boulder hospitals are jointly laying off about 850 employees, because of budget cuts resulting from a decreased patient load. The Boulder River School and Hospital is located about 30 miles from Helena and many Helena area people commute to work there.

The Helena job service office reported that April retail sales have been good at nearly all levels. Also, housing starts in and around the city reflect the makings of a record year. Three recently announced apartment developments were estimated at a construction cost of over $5.7 million. One project will include 161 apartments, although only the first 50 units will be started this summer. The other two are now under construction, one being a 50 unit complex, and the other will contain 18 four-plexes, providing space for 72 units.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, the employed work force stood at 26,500 individuals, up 200 from February. The number of unemployed persons remain practically unchanged at 4,300. As such, the unemployment rate did not change from the 14% recorded for February. In Lake County, just under 10% of those working or actively seeking jobs were without work, but the rate reached 19.4% in Lincoln County and 13.6% in Flathead County.

Unemployment in Lincoln County, was highlighted by the 21% jump in the number of male claimants. Almost half of the claimants were lumber and wood products workers. The breakup of snow in the mountains virtually shut down logging operations in all of western Montana. Flathead County also realized a 14% jump in claims filed by males. Among females, the claims load fell slightly, with nearly half being last employed in some facet of the service industry.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New car registrations for the first four months of 1977 were ahead of last year's levels although the percent change was less than one percent. Registrations were issued for 329 new cars in the three-county area. In the first quarter of 1977, 138 new businesses were created in the labor area, compared with 66 new firms in the first three months of 1976. In Kalispell, bank debits for the twelve month period through February rose 24% above the previous one-year time frame.

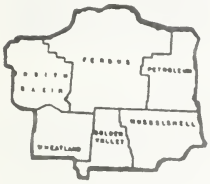
The lumber industry directly or indirectly generates over one-half of the Kalispell area's employment. At the present time, unemployment is particularly heavy among loggers, because of spring breakup. However, logging firms are hoping to get underway again sometime in May. With an ever increasing volume of orders at the lumber mills, loggers should be active this summer. A lumber mill near Columbia Falls has tentative plans for reopening in May. The mill closed earlier, because of a fire. It is expected to employ about 20 workers.

In Kalispell, "main street" activity is reportedly gaining momentum following the usual late winter sales slump. In Columbia Falls, construction is underway on a shopping center. Initially a 24,000 sq. ft. single-story building is being built to accommodate a carpet center and a building supply store.

In the construction industry, a $1.5 million apartment expansion has been undertaken in Polson, Lake County. Construction started in March, on the 48 one-bedroom retirement-oriented apartments. During the peak construction period from April through July, about 40 craftsmen will be employed on the complex.

In the agricultural sector, the main activities have been potato sorting and Christmas tree planting. It has been reported that many farmers have not been able to sell their seed potatoes in normal markets, because of the drought conditions in areas such as Washington. Many potato growers are cautious about planting in the light of potential irrigation shortages.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, a total 8,900 individuals were employed in the six-county Lewistown labor market area. All six counties recorded employment increases, which raised the number of employed persons to 500 above February levels. The jobless rolls dropped 300 from February to 700 individuals in March. The March unemployment rate was 7.9%, compared with 10.8% in February.

The Lewistown job service office noted a drop in claims for both males and females, although the change was much more pronounced for females, 45%. Heavy and highway construction workers accounted for about 32% of all claims filed by males. Female claimants attributed for 12% of the total number of claims in March, of which 58% were service industry workers.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

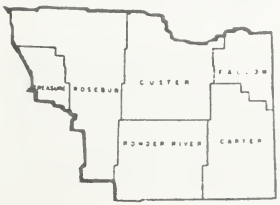
New business formations for the first quarter of 1977 totaled 30 compared with 11 new firms for the first quarter 1976. A total of 109 new cars were registered in the labor area in the first four months of 1977, down 18% from the same period one year ago. In Lewistown, bank debits are running at about the same level as a year ago, while building permits are running ahead of 1976 levels in the first quarter time period.

In Lewistown, a fast food restaurant and a new church are near completion. Several other commercial construction projects are still under construction, as well as residential dwellings.

With calving operations near completion, area farmers are in the middle of wheat and other crop planting work. Although much of Montana received less than 20% of normal moisture during April, the Lewistown area received nearly 70% of normal moisture. If this trend continues, worries of drought conditions could be less severe in this important agricultural area. The outlook is still less than optimistic because of low prices being received by area farmers and ranchers.

Two Montana businessmen purchased 20-25 acres of land near the town of Judith Gap in Wheatland County. The owners bought the log inventory of the recently closed Roundup sawmill. If plans are enacted, a sawmill will be constructed on the acreage. About 30 mill workers will be hired, as well as truck drivers to haul logs to the mill. The proposed business will be a real economic boost to Wheatland County.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In March, 14,100 individuals participated in the civilian labor pool in the six counties comprising the Miles City labor market area. The number of people holding jobs equaled 13,300, up 500 from one month ago. About 68% of the area's total employment was concentrated in Custer and Rosebud counties. About 200 workers left the unemployment rolls in March reducing the total to about 800 individuals. The March jobless hit 6.1%, second lowest of all major labor market areas in the state.

MILES CITY LMA (Cont.)

Claim statistics for March revealed an 8% decline in the number of claims filed in the Miles City job service office. Among males still unemployed, nearly 40% were highway construction workers. The road building industry has played an important role in the economy of the Miles City area throughout this decade. However, from the period between Thanksgiving and April, the highway construction industry virtually shuts down. As such, the unemployment situation worsens during the winter months.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In Miles City, 58 building permits were issued in the first quarter of this year. During the same period one year ago, 62 permits were issued in the city. Cumulative bank debits through February, were also below 1976 levels. The two month volume hit $77.2 million, 7% behind January and February of 1976.

In the labor area as a whole, new business formations for the first quarter rose 29% over a year ago, while new car registrations fell nearly 53% from January - April 1976.

Currently, four companies are engaged in updating and maintenance work on the coal-electric generating plant near Colstrip. The plant is more commonly known as Colstrip Unit #1. At the same time, the U.S. District Court, located in Billings, ruled that the proposed third and fourth coal generating units were exempt from certain clean air regulations. However, construction was again delayed by an appeal of this decision by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Cheyenne Indian tribe. Company officials indicated that initial construction work will be postponed for another 60-90 days.

The unemployment situation will be relieved somewhat as four companies with highway construction projects in Miles City have restarted operations.

The Miles City community will receive an economic boost in the retail sector, as a local developer announced plans of constructing a multi-million dollar shopping mall. The complex will feature a nine-story office building. Also, within the 110,000 sq. ft. of space, leases will be available for at least nine retail stores. Tenative plans call for completion of the mall in late 1979 or 1980.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In the Missoula labor market area, the unemployment rate dropped to 10.1% in March, nearly a full percentage point decline from February, when the rate stood at 11.0%. There was a slight expansion in the civilian labor force (42,181 to 42, 375) all of which can be explained by the 1.5% increase in employment in the area. Employment rose 565 and unemployment decreased by 371, a net increase of 194 persons in the labor pool.

An examination of claims characteristics from the Missoula local office reveals that the decrease in unemployment insurance claims followed statewide trends closely. Total claims were down 9.6%. Claims filed by females, who made up 32% of the claims load, decreased by 15% from February to March. Male claimants, 68% of total claims, decreased only 7%. This same general pattern was present in the Hamilton area,

MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

where female claim filers fell 28% and males decreased 15%. In contrast, the remaining local office in the Missoula LMA, Thompson Falls, reported a 8% decrease in claims filed by females, while males decreased 22%. Of those remaining on the unemployment rolls, the primary occupational attachment was in the lumber and wood products industry. The most recent employment of most female claimants remains the clerical and sales occupations.

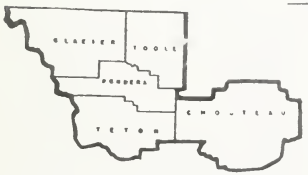
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As the weather improved, Missoula's job market in the construction fields expanded. The initiation of off-site improvements in new housing areas. (i.e. streets, curbs, sidewalks) has created many new jobs. The construction of a new Chamber of Commerce building will provide jobs up until its August completion date. In addition the construction of residential housing and apartment complexes should keep area builders busy through the remainder of 1977. Other building construction activities include: a 20-unit motel and a shopping center in Lolo, and a shopping center, lumber yard and medical center in Missoula. Highway construction should pick up soon. The Montana Department of Highways is accepting bids for two projects in the Missoula District - a 10.5 mile section in Mineral County and the Reserve Street Overpass in Missoula.

In the Hamilton area logging firms are beginning to lay off workers with the spring breakup, but employment is picking up for seasonal work with the U.S. Forest Service. It was also reported that hiring in construction and retail trade is increasing. Although there is an increase in the requests for farm workers for field preparation, sorting, and shipping of potatoes, many potato planters are hesitant in planting this year's crop because of potential shortages of irrigation water.

The Missoula labor market area is displaying many signs of growth. Bank debits in the area are up 16% from year ago totals and new car registrations have increased despite the statewide drop. But because of the economic dependence on the lumber and wood products industry for both direct and derivative employment, the Missoula area could be adversely affected if drought conditions force a premature shutdown of logging activities in the woods.

SHELBY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Shelby labor area stood at 15,459 in March, an increase of 583 since February. Employment was up 676, while unemployment decreased 93. This placed the unemployment rate at 7.4%, a substantial decrease from the rate of 8.3 registered in February.

Unemployment insurance claims decreased over 11.5% from February to March. Female claimants showed the largest percentage change, a decrease of 22% - male claimants decreased only 8%. As is the case in most areas of the state, construction workers make up a large portion of those males who are employed. With females the predominant occupations of those unemployed are services, clerical work, and sales.

SHELBY LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Agriculture employment is increasing in the Shelby area. The local office is active with calls for single farmhands. The oil and gas industry is also showing improvement with job orders for roughnecks being filled in recent weeks. The real boost to the economy should come with the opening of Glacier Park and the coming of the tourist season. Already there is some demand for waitresses, bartenders, and bookkeepers in the area.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
MARCH 1977

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	262	123	2,175
CETA-CEP	104	54	272
CETA-INST.	274	68	755
CETA-OJT	105	20	197
JOB CORPS	93	25	334
PSE TITLE II	39	15	275
PSE TITLE VI	176	41	811

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]
(1967 = 100)

Group	Mar. 1977	*Percent Change From:* Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976
All Items	178.2	*0.6%*	*6.4%*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]
MARCH 1977

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*5.4%*
Female	*25.8%*
Youth	*9.0%*
Over 45	*24.7%*

1/ *The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.*

2/ *Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.*

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	*9.4*	*9.0*	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	*10.2*	*9.1*	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	*9.2*	*9.1*	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	*8.7*	*8.6*	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	*7.2*	*8.3*	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	*8.4*	*9.1*	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	*7.4*	*8.7*	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	*6.6*	*8.2*	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	*6.6*	*8.1*	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	*7.3*	*7.8*	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	*8.0*	*7.8*	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	*9.1*	*7.8*	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	*8.1*	*8.5*	.1
1976								
January	324.8	291.2	262.4	28.8	33.6	*10.3*	*8.8*	*
February	323.6	292.1	263.3	28.8	31.5	*9.7*	*8.7*	*
March	328.3	297.3	265.8	31.5	31.0	*9.5*	*8.1*	*
April	328.6	302.8	267.8	35.0	25.8	*7.9*	*7.4*	*
May	330.4	308.1	271.0	37.1	22.3	*6.8*	*6.7*	*
June	343.0	314.1	273.0	41.1	28.9	*8.4*	*8.0*	.1
July	341.6	315.3	275.2	40.1	26.3	*7.7*	*7.8*	.1
August	341.4	318.0	273.3	44.7	23.4	*6.9*	*7.6*	.1
September	330.1	309.9	274.3	35.6	20.2	*6.1*	*7.4*	.1
October	329.0	308.0	275.1	32.9	21.0	*6.4*	*7.2*	.1
November	328.5	305.2	276.0	29.2	23.3	*7.1*	*7.4*	.1
December	326.0	301.3	275.4	25.9	24.7	*7.6*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	331.3	305.3	271.1	34.2	26.0	*7.8*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	323.8	292.1	270.9	21.2	31.7	*9.8*	*8.3*	.1
February	325.0	295.9	272.8	23.1	29.1	*9.0*	*8.5*	.1
March	328.4	301.7	273.9	27.8	26.7	*8.1*	*7.9*	.1
April	*334.7*	*311.2*	*277.1*	*34.1*	*23.5*	*7.0*	*6.9*	.1
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	*8.3*	*9.4*	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	*9.7*	*10.2*	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	*8.7*	*9.2*	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	*8.3*	*8.7*	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	*8.4*	*8.4*	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	*8.1*	*7.4*	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	*7.4*	*6.6*	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	*7.3*	*6.6*	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	*8.1*	*7.3*	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	*7.9*	*8.0*	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	*8.5*	*9.1*	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	*8.2*	*8.1*	*
1976								
January	32.4	29.2	28.1	1.1	3.2	*9.8*	*10.3*	*
February	32.2	29.3	28.2	1.1	2.9	*9.1*	*9.7*	*
March	32.9	29.9	28.7	1.2	3.0	*9.2*	*9.5*	*
April	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
May	33.5	31.2	29.7	1.5	2.3	*6.9*	*6.8*	*
June	35.0	31.7	30.1	1.6	3.3	*9.3*	*8.4*	*
July	34.4	31.5	29.9	1.6	2.9	*8.3*	*7.7*	*
August	34.2	31.7	29.9	1.8	2.5	*7.2*	*6.9*	*
September	33.5	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.0	*6.1*	*6.1*	*
October	33.8	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.2	*6.6*	*6.4*	*
November	33.7	31.4	30.2	1.2	2.3	*6.8*	*7.1*	*
December	33.5	31.3	30.3	1.0	2.2	*6.5*	*7.6*	*
1976 Avg.	33.5	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.6	*7.8*	*7.8*	*
1977								
January	33.4	30.4	29.6	.8	3.0	*8.9*	*9.8*	*
February	33.2	30.7	29.8	.9	2.5	*7.5*	*9.0*	*
March	33.6	31.3	30.2	1.1	2.3	*6.9*	*8.1*	*
April	*34.3*	*32.2*	*30.9*	*1.3*	*2.1*	*6.0*	*7.0*	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	7.6	9.4	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	8.0	10.2	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	7.9	9.2	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	7.3	8.7	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	5.6	7.2	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.4	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	6.5	7.4	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	6.2	6.6	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	5.9	6.6	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	5.8	7.3	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	5.8	8.0	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	6.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	47.4	43.7	42.4	1.3	3.7	7.9	10.3	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.5	1.3	3.3	7.0	9.7	*
March	47.5	44.1	42.7	1.4	3.4	7.2	9.5	*
April	48.3	45.4	43.8	1.6	2.9	5.9	7.9	*
May	48.1	45.8	44.1	1.7	2.3	4.8	6.8	*
June	50.7	47.2	45.3	1.9	3.5	6.9	8.4	*
July	50.4	47.2	45.4	1.8	3.2	6.3	7.7	*
August	49.8	47.1	45.0	2.1	2.7	5.5	6.9	*
September	50.0	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.1	*
October	50.7	48.3	46.8	1.5	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
November	51.0	48.5	47.2	1.3	2.5	4.9	7.1	*
December	50.8	48.0	46.8	1.2	2.8	5.6	7.6	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.8	1.6	2.9	5.2	7.8	*
1977								
January	50.7	46.9	45.9	1.0	3.8	7.5	9.8	*
February	50.8	47.4	46.3	1.1	3.4	6.6	9.0	*
March	50.9	47.9	46.6	1.3	3.0	5.9	8.1	*
April	51.7	49.2	47.6	1.6	2.5	4.8	7.0	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

MARCH 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	MAR. 1977	FEB. 1977	MAR. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: FEB. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: MAR. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	328.4	325.0	328.3	3.4	.1
EMPLOYED PERSONS	301.7	295.9	297.3	5.8	4.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	27.8	23.1	31.5	4.7	-3.7
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	26.7	29.1	31.0	-2.4	-4.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*8.1*	*9.0*	*9.5*	*-.9*	*-1.4*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*7.0*	*7.0*	*8.3*	*0*	*-1.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*245.4*	*245.0*	*239.4*	*.4*	*6.0*
MANUFACTURING	*22.7*	*23.1*	*22.0*	*-.4*	*.7*
Durable Goods	*14.5*	*14.6*	*14.1*	*-.1*	*.4*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*8.5*	*8.7*	*8.4*	*-.2*	*.1*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.3*	*3.3*	*3.0*	*0*	*.3*
Other Durable Goods	*2.7*	*2.6*	*2.7*	*.1*	*0*
Nondurable Goods	*8.2*	*8.5*	*7.9*	*-.3*	*.3*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.9*	*4.2*	*3.3*	*-.3*	*.6*
27 Printing and Publishing	*1.8*	*1.9*	*2.0*	*-.1*	*-.2*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.1*	*1.1*	*1.2*	*0*	*-.1*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.4*	*1.3*	*1.4*	*.1*	*0*
MINING	*5.4*	*5.5*	*6.1*	*-.1*	*-.7*
10 Metal Mining	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.4*	*0*	*-.3*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.4*	*1.5*	*1.6*	*-.1*	*-.2*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*1.9*	*1.9*	*2.1*	*0*	*-.2*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	10.9	10.4	10.4	.5	.5
15 General Building Contractors	3.9	3.9	4.0	0	-.1
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	2.3	1.8	2.1	.5	.2
17 Special Trade Contractors	4.7	4.7	4.3	0	.4
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	19.4	19.4	18.6	0	.8
40 Railroad Transportation	6.2	6.2	5.9	0	.3
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	5.7	5.7	5.5	0	.2
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	7.5	7.5	7.2	0	.3
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	60.0	59.8	58.7	.2	1.3
Wholesale Trade	12.5	12.3	11.9	.2	.6
Retail Trade	47.5	47.5	46.8	0	.7
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	7.9	7.9	7.7	0	.2
54 Food Stores	6.7	6.7	6.3	0	.4
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.8	7.8	8.1	0	-.3
58 Eating and Drinking Places	15.4	15.3	14.9	.1	.5
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	9.7	9.8	9.8	-.1	-.1
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	10.9	10.9	10.4	0	.5
SERVICES	47.7	47.7	47.1	0	.6
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.3	6.3	5.4	0	.9
72 Personal Services	2.6	2.6	2.4	0	.2
80 Medical and other Health Services	15.4	15.4	15.2	0	.2
Other Services	23.4	23.4	24.1	0	-.7
GOVERNMENT	68.4	68.2	66.1	.2	2.3
91 Federal Government	13.1	13.1	13.1	0	0
92 State Colleges and Universities	9.4	9.2	9.1	.2	.3
92 Other State Government	10.6	10.9	10.4	-.3	.2
93 Local Education	22.7	22.5	21.7	.2	1.0
93 Other Local Government	12.6	12.5	11.8	.1	.8

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

MARCH 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	33.6	33.2	32.9	.4	.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	31.3	30.7	29.9	.6	1.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.1	.9	1.2	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.3	2.5	3.0	-.2	-.7
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.9*	*7.5*	*9.2*	*-.6*	*-2.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.3*	*6.2*	*8.6*	*.1*	*-2.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*28.8*	*28.5*	*27.4*	*.3*	*1.4*
Manufacturing	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*0*	*.1*
Contract Construction	*1.7*	*1.6*	*1.3*	*.1*	*.4*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*0*	*.1*
Wholesale and Retail Trade	*8.7*	*8.5*	*8.3*	*.2*	*.4*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.0*	*2.0*	*1.9*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*6.7*	*6.7*	*6.3*	*0*	*.4*
Government	*6.0*	*6.0*	*6.1*	*0*	*-.1*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

MARCH 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	50.9	50.8	47.5	.1	3.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	47.9	47.4	44.1	.5	3.8
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.3	1.1	1.4	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	3.0	3.4	3.4	-.4	-.4
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.9*	*6.6*	*7.2*	*-.7*	*-1.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*5.1*	*5.7*	*6.4*	*-.6*	*-1.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*41.9*	*41.7*	*38.8*	*.2*	*3.1*
Manufacturing	*3.8*	*3.9*	*3.1*	*-.1*	*.7*
Contract Construction	*2.1*	*2.0*	*2.0*	*.1*	*.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.2*	*3.2*	*3.2*	*0*	*0*
Wholesale and Retail Trade	*13.5*	*13.5*	*12.8*	*0*	*.7*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.0*	*0*	*.2*
Services and Mining	*8.5*	*8.4*	*8.2*	*.1*	*.3*
Government	*8.6*	*8.5*	*7.5*	*.1*	*1.1*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1977
STATEWIDE	323.8	325.0	328.4	292.1	295.9	301.7	31.7	29.1	26.7	*9.8*	*9.0*	*8.1*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.4	33.2	33.6	30.4	30.7	31.3	3.0	2.5	2.3	*8.9*	*7.5*	*6.9*
BILLINGS SMSA	50.7	50.8	50.9	46.9	47.4	47.9	3.8	3.4	3.0	*7.5*	*6.6*	*5.9*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	239.7	241.0	243.9	214.8	217.8	222.5	24.9	23.2	21.4	*10.4*	*9.6*	*8.8*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	32.6	32.4	32.3	29.1	28.9	29.1	3.5	3.5	3.2	*10.8*	*10.7*	*10.0*
BOZEMAN	23.5	22.9	23.2	21.3	20.9	21.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	*9.5*	*8.6*	*7.9*
GLASGOW	15.5	15.3	15.8	14.2	14.0	14.7	1.3	1.3	1.1	*8.6*	*8.8*	*7.2*
GLENDIVE	13.1	12.5	12.9	12.0	11.7	12.2	1.1	.8	.7	*8.0*	*6.7*	*5.3*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.2	10.8	11.2	10.1	9.9	10.4	1.1	.9	.8	*9.8*	*8.4*	*7.2*
HAVRE	12.1	11.8	12.2	11.1	10.9	11.4	1.0	.9	.8	*8.4*	*7.5*	*6.5*
HELENA	23.7	23.5	23.8	21.9	21.9	22.2	1.8	1.6	1.6	*7.5*	*6.9*	*6.8*
KALISPELL	31.1	30.6	30.8	26.6	26.3	26.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	*14.5*	*14.0*	*14.0*
LEWISTOWN	9.5	9.4	9.6	8.6	8.4	8.9	.9	1.0	.7	*9.8*	*10.8*	*7.9*
MILES CITY	14.2	13.8	14.1	13.0	12.8	13.3	1.2	1.0	.8	*8.2*	*7.2*	*6.1*
MISSOULA	42.9	42.2	42.4	37.7	37.5	38.1	5.2	4.7	4.3	*12.1*	*11.0*	*10.1*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	15.4	14.9	15.5	13.9	13.6	14.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	*9.5*	*8.3*	*7.4*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MARCH 1977	MARCH 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	MARCH 1977	MARCH 1976	Percent Change 1976-1977	MARCH 1977	MARCH 1976	Net Change 1976-1977	MARCH 1977	MARCH 1976	Net Change 1976-1977
STATEWIDE	328.4	328.3	*0*	301.7	297.3	*1.5*	26.7	31.0	-4.3	*8.1*	*9.5*	*-1.4*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.6	32.9	*2.1*	31.3	29.9	*4.7*	2.3	3.0	- .7	*6.9*	*9.2*	*-2.3*
BILLINGS SMSA	50.9	47.5	*7.2*	47.9	44.1	*8.6*	3.0	3.4	- .4	*5.9*	*7.2*	*-1.3*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	243.9	247.9	*-1.6*	222.5	223.3	*- .4*	21.4	24.6	-3.2	*8.8*	*9.9*	*-1.1*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	32.3	35.8	*-9.8*	29.1	31.6	*-7.9*	3.2	4.2	-1.0	*10.0*	*11.8*	*-1.8*
BOZEMAN	23.2	24.9	*-6.8*	21.4	22.7	*-5.7*	1.8	2.2	- .4	*7.9*	*8.9*	*-1.0*
GLASGOW	15.8	15.0	*5.3*	14.7	14.0	*5.0*	1.1	1.0	.1	*7.2*	*7.0*	*.2*
GLENDIVE	12.9	12.2	*5.7*	12.2	11.5	*6.1*	.7	.7	0	*5.3*	*5.5*	*- .2*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.2	11.4	*-1.8*	10.4	10.4	*0*	.8	1.0	- .2	*7.2*	*9.0*	*-1.8*
HAVRE	12.2	11.1	*9.9*	11.4	10.4	*9.6*	.8	.7	.1	*6.5*	*6.3*	*.2*
HELENA	23.8	23.9	*- .4*	22.2	22.0	*.9*	1.6	1.9	- .3	*6.8*	*7.8*	*-1.0*
KALISPELL	30.8	28.9	*6.6*	26.5	23.9	*10.9*	4.3	5.0	- .7	*14.0*	*17.2*	*-3.2*
LEWISTOWN	9.6	10.3	*-6.8*	8.9	9.5	*-6.3*	.7	.8	- .1	*7.9*	*8.2*	*- .3*
MILES CITY	14.1	14.7	*-4.1*	13.3	13.8	*-3.6*	.8	.9	- .1	*6.1*	*6.1*	*0*
MISSOULA	42.4	43.4	*-2.3*	38.1	38.5	*-1.0*	4.3	4.9	- .6	*10.1*	*11.3*	*-1.2*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	15.5	16.2	*-4.3*	14.3	15.0	*-4.7*	1.2	1.2	0	*7.4*	*7.6*	*- .2*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY

JANUARY 1977

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BEAVERHEAD	4,125	3,850	275	6.7
BIG HORN	4,126	3,626	500	12.1
BLAINE	2,756	2,482	274	9.9
BROADWATER	1,181	1,077	104	8.8
CARBON	3,278	2,951	327	10.0
CARTER	803	759	44	5.5
CHOUTEAU	2,879	2,639	240	8.3
CUSTER	5,438	4,955	483	8.9
DANIELS	1,304	1,239	65	5.0
DAWSON	4,843	4,381	462	9.5
DEER LODGE	5,741	5,145	596	10.4
FALLON	2,008	1,924	84	4.2
FERGUS	4,804	4,262	542	11.3
FLATHEAD	18,402	15,856	2,546	13.8
GALLATIN	17,560	16,041	1,519	8.7
GARFIELD	843	782	61	7.2
GLACIER	4,323	3,773	550	12.7
GOLDEN VALLEY	405	374	31	7.7
GRANITE	1,116	934	182	16.3
HILL	8,372	7,669	703	8.4
JEFFERSON	2,970	2,648	322	10.8
JUDITH BASIN	1,075	1,018	57	5.3
LAKE	6,342	5,618	724	11.4
LEWIS and CLARK	19,539	18,179	1,360	7.0
LIBERTY	1,009	970	39	3.9
LINCOLN	6,386	5,154	1,232	19.3
MADISON	1,986	1,780	206	10.4
McCONE	1,249	1,190	59	4.7
MEAGHER	804	688	116	14.4
MINERAL	1,571	1,270	301	19.2
MISSOULA	31,062	27,663	3,399	10.9
MUSSELSHELL	1,787	1,575	212	11.9
PARK	5,122	4,516	606	11.8
PETROLEUM	255	248	7	2.7
PHILLIPS	2,501	2,297	204	8.2
PONDERA	3,185	2,952	233	7.3
POWDER RIVER	1,012	935	77	7.6
POWELL	3,018	2,753	265	8.8
PRAIRIE	933	853	80	8.6
RAVALLI	6,114	5,076	1,038	17.0
RICHLAND	4,632	4,299	333	7.2
ROOSEVELT	4,971	4,586	385	7.7
ROSEBUD	4,406	3,980	426	9.7
SANDERS	4,138	3,682	456	11.0
SHERIDAN	2,261	2,143	118	5.2
SILVER BOW	16,681	14,675	2,006	12.0
STILLWATER	2,451	2,248	203	8.3
SWEET GRASS	1,337	1,273	64	4.8
TETON	2,505	2,264	241	9.6
TOOLE	2,469	2,274	195	7.9
TREASURE	519	468	51	9.8
VALLEY	4,496	3,931	565	12.6
WHEATLAND	1,222	1,138	84	6.9
WIBAUX	579	529	50	8.6

TABLE IX

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY

FEBRUARY 1977

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BEAVERHEAD	4,008	3,763	245	6.1
BIG HORN	4,023	3,582	441	11.0
BLAINE	2,707	2,435	272	10.0
BROADWATER	1,173	1,069	104	8.9
CARBON	3,122	2,891	231	7.4
CARTER	754	724	30	4.0
CHOUTEAU	2,737	2,570	167	6.1
CUSTER	5,391	4,949	442	8.2
DANIELS	1,304	1,219	85	6.5
DAWSON	4,702	4,309	393	8.4
DEER LODGE	5,726	5,135	591	10.3
FALLON	1,938	1,877	61	3.1
FERGUS	4,653	4,158	495	10.6
FLATHEAD	18,146	15,715	2,431	13.4
GALLATIN	17,088	15,847	1,241	7.3
GARFIELD	799	753	46	5.8
GLACIER	4,234	3,714	520	12.3
GOLDEN VALLEY	394	363	31	7.9
GRANITE	1,066	884	182	17.1
HILL	8,136	7,560	576	7.1
JEFFERSON	2,889	2,643	246	8.5
JUDITH BASIN	1,035	973	62	6.0
LAKE	6,264	5,564	700	11.2
LEWIS and CLARK	19,474	18,210	1,264	6.5
LIBERTY	987	950	37	3.7
LINCOLN	6,178	5,016	1,162	18.8
MADISON	1,914	1,734	180	9.4
McCONE	1,215	1,162	53	4.4
MEAGHER	747	655	92	12.3
MINERAL	1,535	1,248	287	18.7
MISSOULA	30,536	27,553	2,983	9.8
MUSSELSHELL	1,851	1,528	323	17.4
PARK	5,072	4,438	634	12.5
PETROLEUM	244	236	8	3.3
PHILLIPS	2,437	2,251	186	7.6
PONDERA	3,131	2,940	191	6.1
POWDER RIVER	943	887	56	5.9
POWELL	3,109	2,764	345	11.1
PRAIRIE	902	834	68	7.5
RAVALLI	6,033	5,019	1,014	16.8
RICHLAND	4,358	4,108	250	5.7
ROOSEVELT	5,051	4,618	433	8.6
ROSEBUD	4,308	3,949	359	8.3
SANDERS	4,077	3,702	375	9.2
SHERIDAN	2,238	2,097	141	6.3
SILVER BOW	16,541	14,607	1,934	11.7
STILLWATER	2,350	2,192	158	6.7
SWEET GRASS	1,316	1,237	79	6.0
TETON	2,357	2,189	168	7.1
TOOLE	2,417	2,222	195	8.1
TREASURE	504	457	47	9.3
VALLEY	4,321	3,819	502	11.6
WHEATLAND	1,223	1,125	98	8.0
WIBAUX	540	512	28	5.2

TABLE IX

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY

MARCH 1977

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BEAVERHEAD	4,125	3,909	216	5.2
BIG HORN	4,160	3,727	433	10.4
BLAINE	2,766	2,565	201	7.3
BROADWATER	1,210	1,116	94	7.8
CARBON	3,236	3,017	219	6.8
CARTER	822	794	28	3.4
CHOUTEAU	2,853	2,764	89	3.1
CUSTER	5,400	5,037	363	6.7
DANIELS	1,340	1,297	43	3.2
DAWSON	4,697	4,406	291	6.2
DEER LODGE	5,648	5,098	550	9.7
FALLON	2,014	1,962	52	2.6
FERGUS	4,817	4,366	451	9.4
FLATHEAD	18,182	15,706	2,476	13.6
GALLATIN	17,354	16,184	1,170	6.7
GARFIELD	834	797	37	4.4
GLACIER	4,300	3,794	506	11.8
GOLDEN VALLEY	422	396	26	6.2
GRANITE	1,059	913	146	13.8
HILL	8,364	7,815	549	6.6
JEFFERSON	2,861	2,624	237	8.3
JUDITH BASIN	1,101	1,058	43	3.9
LAKE	6,478	5,834	644	9.9
LEWIS and CLARK	19,751	18,458	1,293	6.5
LIBERTY	1,040	1,001	39	3.8
LINCOLN	6,141	4,949	1,192	19.4
MADISON	2,054	1,866	188	9.2
McCONE	1,272	1,212	60	4.7
MEAGHER	798	715	83	10.4
MINERAL	1,485	1,228	257	17.3
MISSOULA	30,519	27,780	2,739	9.0
MUSSELSHELL	1,776	1,595	181	10.2
PARK	5,116	4,541	575	11.2
PETROLEUM	266	261	5	1.9
PHILLIPS	2,575	2,414	161	6.3
PONDERA	3,291	3,086	205	6.2
POWDER RIVER	1,006	967	39	3.9
POWELL	3,103	2,810	293	9.4
PRAIRIE	929	886	43	4.6
RAVALLI	6,181	5,299	882	14.3
RICHLAND	4,529	4,309	220	4.9
ROOSEVELT	5,203	4,815	388	7.5
ROSEBUD	4,371	4,045	326	7.5
SANDERS	4,190	3,780	410	9.8
SHERIDAN	2,303	2,206	97	4.2
SILVER BOW	16,372	14,535	1,837	11.2
STILLWATER	2,398	2,293	105	4.4
SWEET GRASS	1,414	1,365	49	3.5
TETON	2,483	2,331	152	6.1
TOOLE	2,532	2,336	196	7.7
TREASURE	529	479	50	9.5
VALLEY	4,402	3,946	456	10.4
WHEATLAND	1,238	1,187	51	4.1
WIBAUX	585	552	33	5.6

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

MARCH 1977

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	MAR. 1/ 1977	FEB. 1977	MAR. 1976	Net Change to Current Month From: Feb. 1977	Net Change to Current Month From: Mar. 1976	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						March 1977		February 1977	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	102.6	101.9	96.5	.7	6.1	245.4	*41.8*	245.0	*41.6*
Manufacturing	2.9	3.0	2.5	-.1	.4	22.7	*12.8*	23.1	*13.0*
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0	5.4	*5.6*	5.5	*5.5*
Contract Construction	.7	.7	.8	0	- .1	10.9	*6.4*	10.4	*6.7*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0	19.4	*18.0*	19.4	*18.0*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	25.8	25.8	23.8	0	2.0	60.0	*43.0*	59.8	*43.1*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	6.9	6.9	6.5	0	.4	10.9	*63.3*	10.9	*63.3*
Services	30.0	29.9	28.5	.1	1.5	47.7	*62.9*	47.7	*62.7*
Government	32.5	31.8	30.6	.7	1.9	68.4	*47.5*	68.2	*46.6*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1976

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	95.5	95.4	96.5	97.6	98.7	98.9	99.0	98.4	99.5	101.2	102.2	102.6	98.8
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.7	.8
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.3	23.0	23.8	24.7	25.2	25.5	26.1	25.9	26.1	26.0	26.3	26.6	25.2
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.6
Services	28.3	28.3	28.5	28.6	28.8	28.9	29.4	29.5	29.8	29.7	29.9	29.9	29.1
Government1/	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.5	29.2	31.0	31.6	31.8	30.4

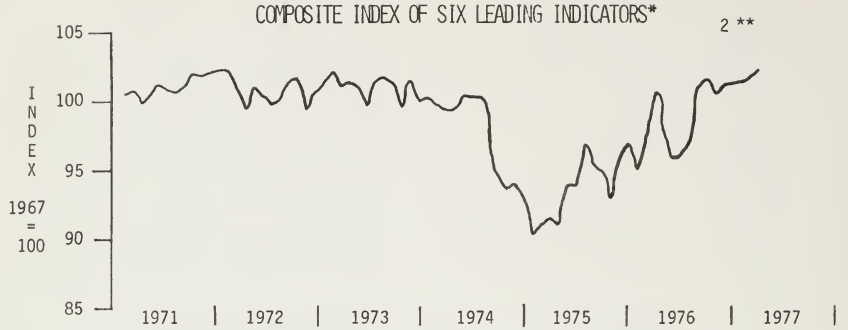
1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	101.4	101.7	102.6
Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	2.9
Mining	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.7	.7	.7
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.0	25.9	25.8
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.8	6.8	6.9
Services	29.9	30.1	30.0
Government1/	31.2	31.4	32.5

1/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1976 Benchmark.*

Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Composite Index of SIX LEADING INDICATORS 1967 = 100	
1976	
January	96.8
February	95.0
March	97.4
April	100.5
May	97.7
June	95.7
July	95.9
August	96.9
September	100.9
October	101.5
November	100.4
December	101.1
1977	
January	101.4
February	102.0
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

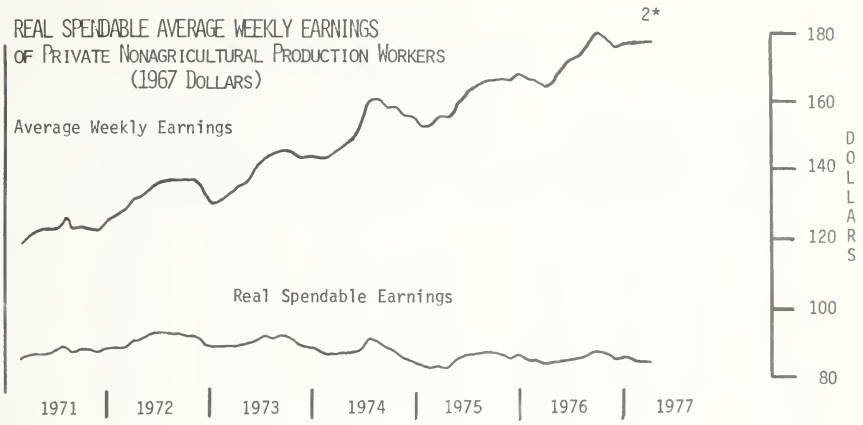
MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

The Composite Index for February was at 102.0, the highest index value since March 1973. February marks the sixth consecutive month that the Composite Index has remained above 100.0, and preliminary data for March indicate no change in this pattern.

The manufacturing components were virtually unchanged in February. Manufacturing employment did register a small gain but layoffs and average weekly hours offset this positive effect. Building permits provided the impetus for the real advance in the index - construction starts were up 49% across the state.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$177.00	$176.00	$163.70
Taxes Withheld	26 94	26.63	22.96
Spendable Earnings	150.06	149.37	140.73
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	65.85	65.02	56.71
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	84.21	84.35	84.02

	Average Weekly Earnings 1/	Real Spendable Earnings 2/
1976		
July	172.67	85.92
Aug.	175.69	86.77
Sep.	178.92	87.72
Oct.	177.79	86.90
Nov.	175.02	85.54
Dec.	175.78	85.62
1977		
Jan.	175.94	85.17
Feb.	176.00	84.35
Mar.	177.00p	84.21p
Apr.		
May		
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Average weekly earnings have remained stable over the past three months, while inflation has steadily whittled away at real wages. Some improvement was witnessed in March, but the increase in wages only kept pace with inflation (as measured by the U. S. Consumer Price Index). Wages should start climbing again as soon as the seasonal job market expands, but it will be difficult to recoup the losses that were experienced during the winter months without some larger increases in wage levels this spring.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary.*
1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.
2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

TABLE XII

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	326.0	303.0	265.8	37.2	23.0	7.0	8.3	*
February	326.4	300.0	263.3	36.7	26.4	8.1	8.1	.1
March	326.0	300.0	265.2	34.8	26.0	8.0	8.7	.3
April	323.2	295.6	262.7	32.9	27.6	8.5	8.9	.2
May	325.6	299.0	265.1	33.9	26.6	8.2	9.2	.1
June	327.4	299.7	267.7	32.0	27.7	8.4	8.6	.1
July	327.8	301.3	268.9	32.4	26.5	8.1	8.4	.2
August	329.3	302.9	270.2	32.7	26.4	8.0	8.4	*
September	333.1	306.3	273.7	32.6	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	336.4	308.4	273.1	35.3	28.0	8.3	8.0	.3
November	341.0	313.0	275.4	37.6	28.0	8.2	8.3	.2
December	343.5	314.0	274.6	39.4	29.5	8.6	8.7	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.4	.1
1976								
January	342.7	315.0	274.6	40.4	27.7	8.1	7.8	*
February	341.1	314.6	275.6	39.0	26.5	7.8	7.6	*
March	337.8	309.9	273.8	36.1	27.9	8.3	7.5	*
April	332.6	307.2	272.2	35.0	25.4	7.6	7.5	*
May	328.2	302.9	269.4	33.5	25.3	7.7	7.3	*
June	320.7	293.6	261.9	31.7	27.1	8.4	7.5	.1
July	321.6	294.4	264.5	29.9	27.2	8.5	7.9	.1
August	319.1	292.2	262.3	29.9	26.9	8.4	7.9	.1
September	322.4	297.7	267.5	30.2	24.7	7.7	7.8	.1
October	332.8	307.9	273.6	34.3	24.9	7.5	7.9	.1
November	338.4	313.9	278.7	35.2	24.5	7.3	8.1	.1
December	337.9	314.0	278.2	35.8	23.9	7.1	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	331.3	305.3	271.1	34.2	26.0	7.8	7.7	.1
1977								
January	341.7	315.9	283.1	32.8	25.8	7.6	7.3	.1
February	342.5	318.4	285.1	33.3	24.1	7.0	7.5	.1
March	337.9	314.3	282.0	32.3	23.6	7.0	7.3	.1
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1975								
January	32.4	30.3	28.7	1.6	2.1	6.5	7.0	*
February	32.7	30.0	28.5	1.5	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
March	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	8.1	8.0	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.5	.1
May	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.8	8.2	*
June	32.2	29.7	28.5	1.2	2.5	7.8	8.4	*
July	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	8.2	8.1	*
August	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	8.2	8.0	*
September	32.7	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
October	33.0	30.0	28.7	1.3	3.0	9.0	8.3	*
November	33.6	30.8	29.3	1.5	2.8	8.3	8.2	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.8	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
1976								
January	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	8.0	8.1	*
February	33.6	31.0	29.4	1.6	2.6	7.7	7.8	*
March	33.7	30.8	29.4	1.4	2.9	8.6	8.3	*
April	32.5	29.8	28.4	1.4	2.7	8.3	7.6	*
May	33.1	30.7	29.4	1.3	2.4	7.3	7.7	*
June	33.3	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.9	8.8	8.4	*
July	33.1	30.3	29.1	1.2	2.8	8.4	8.5	*
August	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	32.9	30.6	29.4	1.2	2.3	6.9	7.7	*
October	34.0	31.5	30.2	1.3	2.5	7.4	7.5	*
November	34.2	31.7	30.3	1.4	2.5	7.3	7.3	*
December	34.1	31.8	30.4	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	33.5	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.8	*
1977								
January	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.2	7.6	*
February	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.2	7.0	*
March	34.4	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.2	6.3	7.0	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

RESIDENCE DATA

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	State	
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.2	7.0	*
February	46.6	43.3	41.6	1.7	3.3	7.0	8.1	*
March	46.5	43.3	41.7	1.6	3.2	7.0	8.0	.1
April	47.3	43.7	42.2	1.5	3.6	7.6	8.5	*
May	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.2	*
June	47.3	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.1	6.5	8.4	*
July	47.8	44.7	43.3	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	3.2	6.5	8.0	*
September	48.6	45.4	43.9	1.5	3.2	6.6	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.8	43.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.3	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.3	8.2	*
December	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.1	*
February	48.8	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.9	6.0	7.8	*
March	48.7	45.6	44.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	8.3	*
April	48.7	45.7	44.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.6	*
May	47.9	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.6	5.5	7.7	*
June	48.9	45.7	44.2	1.5	3.2	6.5	8.4	*
July	48.7	45.7	44.4	1.3	3.0	6.2	8.5	*
August	48.7	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.9	5.9	8.4	*
September	49.9	47.2	45.8	1.4	2.7	5.4	7.7	*
October	50.4	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.7	5.5	7.5	*
November	50.9	48.1	46.5	1.6	2.8	5.4	7.3	*
December	51.0	48.1	46.4	1.7	2.9	5.7	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.8	1.6	2.9	5.9	7.8	*
1977								
January	52.2	48.9	47.5	1.4	3.3	6.3	7.6	*
February	52.6	49.6	48.1	1.5	3.0	5.7	7.0	*
March	52.2	49.5	48.1	1.4	2.7	5.1	7.0	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

MARCH 1977

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976
TOTAL PRIVATE	$177.00	$176.00	$163.70	35.4	35.2	35.9	$5.00	$5.00	$4.56
MANUFACTURING	259.91	247.25	219.82	42.4	40.6	38.7	6.13	6.09	5.68
Durable Goods	265.43	248.63	213.17	43.8	41.3	38.9	6.06	6.02	5.48
Primary Metal Industries	286.31	287.38	268.26	39.9	40.2	40.4	7.17	7.14	6.64
Nondurable Goods	246.87	243.75	249.28	39.0	39.0	38.0	6.33	6.25	6.56
Food and Kindred Products	223.68	220.25	219.40	39.8	39.9	38.9	5.62	5.52	5.64
MINING	317.12	317.46	289.40	43.5	42.9	41.7	7.29	7.40	6.94
Metal Mining	292.09	291.85	280.30	40.4	40.2	40.8	7.23	7.26	6.87
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	329.84	325.66	291.47	38.0	38.0	38.1	8.68	8.57	7.65
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	287.29	287.32	253.53	41.1	41.4	40.5	6.99	6.94	6.26
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	271.75	271.17	216.60	41.3	40.9	38.0	6.58	6.63	5.70
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	142.90	143.18	137.80	34.6	34.5	35.7	4.13	4.15	3.86
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	129.46	131.32	119.60	37.2	37.2	36.8	3.48	3.53	3.25
SERVICES	107.45	109.82	106.55	29.6	29.6	31.9	3.63	3.71	3.34

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

FEBRUARY 1977

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1976	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1976	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1976	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1976	Feb. 1977	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1976
MANUFACTURING	2.4	2.8	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.1	3.1	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.1	.6	.7	.7	.9
Durable Goods	2.4	3.1	1.5	1.7	1.8	.9	2.4	2.7	1.1	1.1	1.3	.6	.8	1.0	*
Primary Metal Industries	2.5	2.2	1.1	1.1	.8	.1	1.6	.7	2.3	.5	.4	.4	.5	*	*
Nondurable Goods	2.7	2.1	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.4	4.3	1.3	3.2	2.4	.7	.8	.5	.3	2.2
MINING	1.1	1.2	2.1	.4	.8	.9	3.0	5.1	3.8	2.2	1.7	.5	.2	2.9	2.5
Metal Mining	.6	1.2	1.1	*	.1	.1	2.0	8.5	3.0	*	.1	.3	.6	7.0	1.3

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Mar. 1977	Mar. 1976	Year to Date 1977	Year to Date 1976
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	47	18	94	60
MINING	9	2	39	15
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	93	20	200	78
MANUFACTURING	20	7	41	23
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	14	3	41	15
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	104	23	285	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	59	22	123	71
SERVICES	140	48	367	215
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	3	0	19	0
STATE TOTAL	489	143	1209	577

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Mar. 1977	Mar. 1976	Year to Date 1977	1976
STATE OF MONTANA	489	143	1209	577
GREAT FALLS SMSA	70	6	146	61
BILLINGS SMSA	67	17	188	79
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	35	18	100	50
Beaverhead	4	2	13	9
Deer Lodge	1	5	2	6
Granite	3	0	3	0
Madison	6	1	12	1
Powell	5	2	8	5
Silver Bow	16	8	62	29
BOZEMAN LMA	42	9	124	41
Gallatin	38	8	97	34
Meagher	0	1	2	2
Park	4	0	25	5
GLASGOW LMA	4	7	28	37
Daniels	0	2	2	11
Phillips	1	0	2	0
Roosevelt	0	0	4	5
Sheridan	0	1	5	10
Valley	3	4	15	11
GLENDIVE LMA	20	6	31	21
Dawson	7	3	9	9
Garfield	1	0	3	1
McCone	0	1	0	5
Prairie	4	0	7	2
Richland	8	2	11	4
Wibaux	0	0	1	0
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	10	4	24	13
Big Horn	2	3	8	6
Carbon	8	1	10	5
Stillwater	0	0	5	2
Sweet Grass	0	0	1	0
HAVRE LMA	18	10	35	24
Blaine	2	1	5	3
Hill	11	6	18	17
Liberty	5	3	12	4
HELENA LMA	42	5	90	34
Broadwater	4	0	5	0
Jefferson	4	1	6	3
Lewis and Clark	34	4	79	31
KALISPELL LMA	64	20	138	66
Flathead	48	15	85	45
Lake	9	5	30	18
Lincoln	7	0	23	3
LEWISTOWN LMA	10	3	30	11
Fergus	5	1	21	7
Golden Valley	0	0	1	1
Judith Basin	1	0	1	0
Musselshell	4	1	6	2
Petroleum	0	1	0	1
Wheatland	0	0	1	0
MILES CITY LMA	13	9	36	28
Carter	0	0	3	1
Custer	9	4	19	11
Fallon	0	0	3	3
Powder River	0	2	0	3
Rosebud	3	3	9	10
Treasure	1	0	2	0
MISSOULA LMA	63	22	170	84
Mineral	1	0	1	1
Missoula	42	15	126	63
Ravalli	13	1	31	10
Sanders	7	6	12	10
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	31	7	69	28
Chouteau	6	0	8	5
Glacier	3	3	7	8
Pondera	6	1	21	2
Teton	1	3	6	7
Toole	15	0	27	6

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

The bulk of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter one of our 23 local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

JANUARY THRU MARCH 1977 INTRASTATE

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	AMOUNT OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	929	67,839.00
BIG HORN	1,591	126,908.00
BLAINE	836	59,291.00
BROADWATER	401	28,968.00
CARBON	1,108	84,445.00
CARTER	110	8,317.00
CASCADE	12,102	891,194.00
CHOUTEAU	542	35,952.00
CUSTER	2,293	185,367.00
DANIELS	186	14,898.00
DAWSON	1,646	120,876.00
DEER LODGE	2,825	220,110.00
FALLON	235	19,916.00
FERGUS	2,405	181,938.00
FLATHEAD	10,917	799,033.49
GALLATIN	5,966	449,874.00
GARFIELD	163	13,291.00
GLACIER	2,346	169,951.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	102	7,159.00
GRANITE	789	59,797.00
HILL	2,302	173,218.00
JEFFERSON	1,405	115,611.00
JUDITH BASIN	132	10,638.00
LAKE	3,104	215,918.00
LEWIS & CLARK	6,506	501,208.00
LIBERTY	134	9,744.00
LINCOLN	4,287	320,129.00
MADISON	564	36,420.00
MCCONE	198	14,553.00
MEAGHER	400	33,024.00
MINERAL	1,332	95,652.68
MISSOULA	13,145	939,888.50
MUSSELSHELL	1,180	91,919.00
PARK	2,335	160,182.22
PETROLEUM	23	2,199.00
PHILLIPS	656	45,934.00
PONDERA	834	64,610.00
POWDER RIVER	167	15,628.00
POWELL	1,401	109,846.00
PRAIRIE	371	31,511.00
RAVALLI	3,526	250,012.00
RICHLAND	931	70,803.00
ROOSEVELT	1,222	85,896.00
ROSEBUD	1,838	151,565.00
SANDERS	1,664	119,217.00
SHERIDAN	386	29,298.00
SILVER BOW	10,024	795,197.00
STILLWATER	751	63,631.00
SWEETGRASS	238	19,590.00
TETON	708	52,364.75
TOOLE	889	69,614.00
TREASURE	216	18,155.00
VALLEY	2,280	169,019.00
WHEATLAND	221	18,746.00
WIBAUX	163	10,604.00
YELLOWSTONE	16,590	1,319,878.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	129,617	9,776,547.64
INTERSTATE	10,025	1,001,569.20
TOTAL	139,642	10,778,116.84

TABLE XX
DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
MARCH 1977

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	INTRASTATE AMOUNT OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	332	24,442.00
BIG HORN	604	47,550.00
BLAINE	288	20,849.00
BROADWATER	141	10,442.00
CARBON	435	32,999.00
CARTER	42	3,130.00
CASCADE	4,191	303,190.00
CHOUTEAU	171	11,209.00
CUSTER	809	65,952.00
DANIELS	82	6,485.00
DAWSON	560	41,507.00
DEER LODGE	1,077	84,540.00
FALLON	73	6,307.00
FERGUS	835	63,328.00
FLATHEAD	4,427	330,445.49
GALLATIN	2,282	174,629.00
GARFIELD	63	5,095.00
GLACIER	822	59,981.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	40	2,509.00
GRANITE	287	21,850.00
HILL	882	67,498.00
JEFFERSON	470	39,204.00
JUDITH BASIN	52	4,551.00
LAKE	1,121	78,278.00
LEWIS & CLARK	2,385	183,927.00
LIBERTY	38	2,543.00
LINCOLN	1,850	144,301.00
MADISON	216	14,218.00
MCCONE	90	6,482.00
MEAGHER	141	11,691.00
MINERAL	470	33,673.32
MISSOULA	4,536	324,988.50
MUSSELSHELL	454	35,638.00
PARK	884	60,190.82
PETROLEUM	7	679.00
PHILLIPS	238	15,768.00
PONDERA	253	19,572.00
POWDER RIVER	63	5,764.00
POWELL	529	41,111.00
PRAIRIE	128	10,747.00
RAVALLI	1,233	87,162.00
RICHLAND	309	23,863.00
ROOSEVELT	501	35,328.00
ROSEBUD	651	53,163.00
SANDERS	747	54,474.00
SHERIDAN	172	13,451.00
SILVER BOW	3,748	301,193.00
STILLWATER	253	21,366.00
SWEETGRASS	86	7,201.00
TETON	238	17,889.75
TOOLE	368	29,177.00
TREASURE	76	6,291.00
VALLEY	827	61,133.00
WHEATLAND	76	6,638.00
WIBAUX	59	3,206.00
YELLOWSTONE	6,077	478,712.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	47,789	3,617,511.88
INTERSTATE	3,806	441,216.52
TOTAL	51,595	4,058,728.40

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

ANNUAL

	1976	1975	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	47,963	45,442	2,521	*5.5*
Continued Claims[1/]	467,666	486,975	-19,309	*-4.0*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	396,944	433,221	-36,277	*-8.4*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$26,260,735	$25,176,953	$1,083,782	*4.3*
Trust Fund Balance	$ 1,008,042*	$ 7,003,178*	-$5,995,136	*-85.6*

MONTHLY

	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	Mar. 1976	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	3,890	3,717	4,133	-243	*-5.9*
Continued Claims[1/]	50,895	49,413	58,022	-7,127	*-14.0*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	51,595	43,974	52,548	-953	*-1.8*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$4,058,728	$3,340,044	$3,461,604	$597,124	*17.2*
Trust Fund Balance	$ 995,591*	$1,650,300*	$ 111,126	$884,465	*795.9*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
** Includes loans from Federal Government.*

Both the number and the dollar amount of UI benefit payments accelerated between February and March. However, this movement is not necessarily harmful to the economy since the greater number of March trading days versus that for February historically causes such an increase.

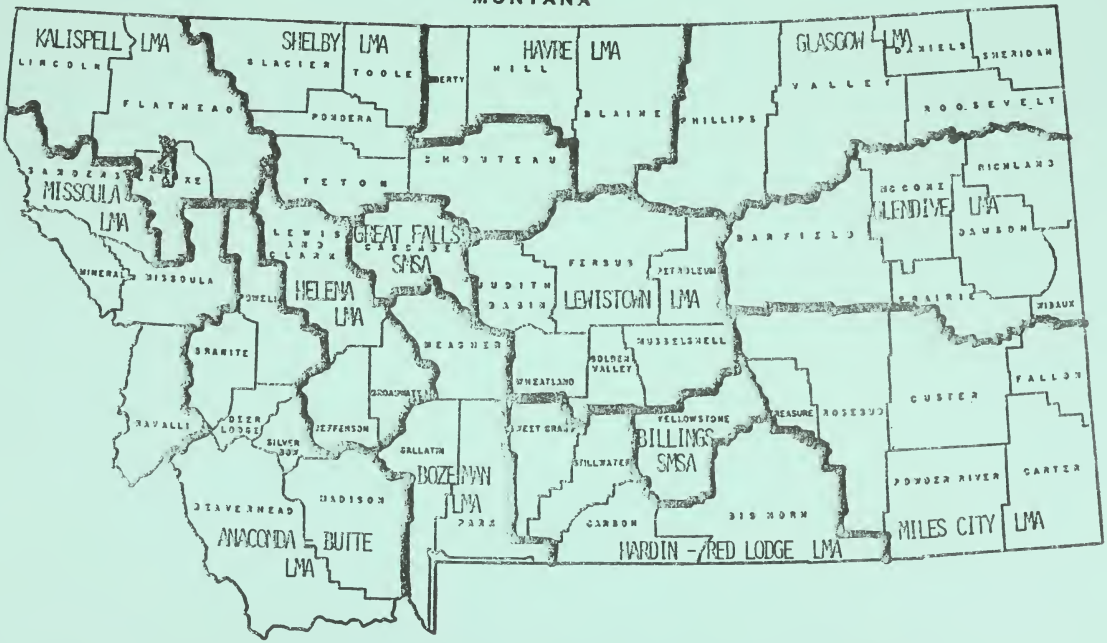
Continued claims rose in March and this change can also be attributed to seasonality. More importantly, initial claims increased as well, an atypical reaction for this series between the months of February and March which may partially create an acceleration of benefit payments for the second quarter.

It should be mentioned that published figures for the Trust Fund Balance are deceiving. In fact, when the amounts received from Federal loans are deducted, the balance for March is below last month's and below that for March of last year. Since the new tax rates will be in effect next month and since claims are expected to begin their seasonal decline, the Trust Fund will commence its journey toward solvency in April.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.